



STATE OF DELAWARE  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

800 BAY ROAD  
P.O. BOX 778  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

NATHAN HAYWARD III  
SECRETARY

January 27, 2005

Mr. Daniel Griffith, Director  
Division of Historic and Cultural Affairs  
DE SHPO  
21 The Green, Suite B  
Dover, DE 19901-3611

Dear Mr. Griffith:

Enclosed please find one copy of an archeological cultural resources update for the RT 40; SR 896 to SR 1 Improvement Project.

For this specific additional work, based upon the lack of previously and newly identified archeological sites with the project APE, and the lack of NRHP-listed or eligible archeological sites, the proposed project, as currently designed, will not effect any significant pre-historic or historic period sites. No additional culture resources investigations are warranted or suggested for this surveyed area.

Also enclosed for your review, as a result of the ongoing RT 40 project is an accompanying PH II archeological proposal for the Corrie House, which stands at the intersection of RT 40 and Church Road, and a PH I for the Walther Road Sidewalk project.

We have and continue to coordinate and consult, with Gwen, throughout this project.

If I can provide any further information or details please let me know.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cunningham  
DelDOT Archeologist

Attachment

Cc: Terry Fulmer, Manager, Environmental Studies  
Mark Tudor, Project Engineer  
Mike Hahn, Transportation Planner

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December 17, 2004

Mr. Kevin Cunningham, Archaeologist  
Delaware Department of Transportation  
800 Bay Road  
Dover, Delaware 19903

RE: New Castle County  
Route 40 (S.R. 896 to S.R. 1)  
Improvements Project  
Cultural Resources Update

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

Please consider this letter and the enclosed figures as a cultural resources update for the above-referenced project. This update was produced in response to your request of December 3, 2004.

### **Background**

A project status meeting was held at the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) offices on March 15, 2004. The current plans as of that date were reviewed, and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) discussed ongoing cultural resources issues. Pursuant to that meeting, Skelly and Loy, Inc. prepared a technical proposal that included additional archaeological survey and revision of the Phase I reports. The additional field work was undertaken in July 2004. This cultural resources update is issued pursuant to a December 2, 2004 field view by Kevin Cunningham (DelDOT) and Chris Espenshade (Skelly and Loy). This update is intended to serve as the basis for a scheduled January 2005 field view to include SHPO staff, the project engineers, DelDOT personnel, and Chris Espenshade and Gerry Kuncio of Skelly and Loy. The Route 40 project is an evolving endeavor, and these updates and field views serve to keep all parties current.

### **Phase I Archaeological Survey at Cumberland Farm/Corrie House (N-5083)**

On August 27, 2004, Ms. Corrie granted Skelly and Loy permission for Phase I archaeological survey on her property. This property had not been examined during the initial Phase I survey. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of a 5.0-6.0 m (16.4-19.7 ft) wide strip inside (south of) the fence on this property (Figure 1). The APE contains grass and shrubs of the side yard of the standing residence.

The property, Cumberland Farm (N-5083), contains a 1940s residence and several outbuildings. The 1940s residence replaced an early to mid-nineteenth century tenant farm house owned by the Silver family, prominent local landowners. The early tenant house stood on the same location as the existing house, and the tenant house was removed in the early 1940s (Hoffman *et al.* 2002).

The N100 grid line was established 2.0 m (6.6 ft) inside of and paralleling the fence and Route 40. Shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated at 15.0 m (49.2 ft) intervals, with N100 E100 placed 5.0 m (16.4 ft) northeast of the dirt drive. Seven STPs were excavated in Test Area 21. Each measured 50.0 x 50.0 cm (19.7 x 19.7 in) and was excavated to sterile subsoil. All soil was screened through 0.64 cm (0.25 in) mesh. The STPs were backfilled and the sod was replaced upon completion of each unit.

STPs N100 E55, N100 E70, and N100 E85 all failed to yield any artifacts. The typical soil profile was an A horizon of 10YR 4/3 brown silt loam over a Bt horizon of 10YR 7/2 light gray silt loam. These three STPs were southwest of the drive and farthest from the house.

STP N100 E100 had an A horizon of 10YR 4/3 brown silt loam (0-16.0 cm [0-6.3 in]) over a Bt horizon of 10YR 7/2 light gray silt loam with 25 percent pebbles. The A horizon yielded one fragment of clear window glass and one sherd of undecorated pearlware.

STP N100 E115 had a 40.0 cm (15.8 in) thick A horizon of 10YR 4/3 brown silt loam; the natural A horizon has been augmented by modern landscaping activities. The Bt horizon was 10YR 7/2 light gray silt loam. There was a possible historic feature in the subsoil; the feature was only 8.0 cm (3.2 in) thick and yielded no artifacts. The A horizon artifacts included: one sherd of undecorated pearlware; eight sherds of undecorated whiteware; one sherd of blue feather-edged whiteware; two sherds of lead-glazed earthenware; one sherd of earthenware flower pot; one porcelain doll arm; four pieces of light green window glass; one sherd of clear window glass; two fragments of clear bottle glass; seven brick fragments; three lumps of concrete mortar; three lumps of shell-based mortar; four spalls from shaping of building stones; and two fragments of asbestos tiles.

The artifacts from the thick A horizon suggest some mixing of historic artifacts and ca. 1940s demolition/construction debris.

STP N100 E130 displayed 35.0 cm (13.8 in) of an A horizon of 10YR 5/3 silt loam over a Bt horizon of 10YR 7/2 light gray silt loam with 20 percent pebbles. The A horizon of this STP yielded the following: two sherds of undecorated whiteware; two sherds of blue feather-edged whiteware; three sherds of lead-glazed earthenware; one sherd of unglazed earthenware; one fragment of clear window glass; four fragments of light green window glass; one piece of clear bottle glass; one piece of clear table glass; one small brick fragment; one fragment of dressed building stone; one flake of dark black chert (European in origin?); and one piece of shatter of crystal quartz.

STP N100 E145 was near the corner of the fence and yard. Its soil profile included a 26.0 cm (10.2 in) thick A horizon of 10YR 5/3 brown silt loam. The Bt horizon was 10YR 7/2 light gray silt loam with 20 percent pebbles. The A horizon of this STP yielded two sherds of unglazed earthenware, three fragments of clear bottle glass, and one fragment of light green bottle glass.

The four STPs in the side yard yielded predominately nineteenth century artifacts, consistent with the expected debris from occupation of the original Cumberland Farm domicile. STP N100 E115 contained a potential feature, and none of the STP profiles exhibited evidence of severe modern disturbance. The 50.0 x 5.0 m (164.0 x 16.4 ft) portion of the site within the APE has the potential to contain discrete cultural features related to the nineteenth century occupation of the farm. It is recommended that this potential be further evaluated through Phase II testing.

During a field view on December 3, 2004, Kevin Cunningham (DelDOT) and Chris Espenshade (Skelly and Loy) agreed that the area could be adequately evaluated through the excavation of 10 additional STPs and five 1.0 x 1.0 m (3.3 x 3.3 ft) units. The 50.0 x 50.0 cm (19.7 x 19.7 in) STPs will be excavated at 5.0 m (16.4 ft) intervals to fill the gaps between the Phase I, 15.0 m (49.2 ft) interval STPs. Based on the results of the STPs, five 1.0 x 1.0 m (3.3 x 3.3 ft) units will be excavated to generate a better artifact sample, to evaluate stratigraphy, and to search for subsurface features. The unit excavation will proceed in 10.0 cm (3.9 in) arbitrary levels, and all soils will be screened through 0.64 cm (0.25 in) mesh. The Phase II investigations will also include additional archival research.

#### **Additional Phase I Survey at Test Area 16, Abandoned Golf Course**

A portion of Test Area 16 was not available for excavation during the original survey. At that time, the landowners did not wish any excavation in their active golf course. The course had subsequently closed, and two additional transects of four STPs each were

excavated along the N85 and N70 transect lines, completing coverage of the entire test area with STPs at 15.0 m (49.2 ft) intervals (Figure 2).

The additional STPs showed a fairly consistent soil profile. Typically, the Ap horizon was a 10YR 4/3 brown coarse sandy loam, extending from 0-25.0 cm (0-9.8 in) below ground surface. The Bt horizon was typically a 10YR 7/2 light gray coarse sand. None of the STPs yielded any artifacts or features. No further work is recommended for this test area.

### **Examination of Expanded Test Area 13**

At the March 15, 2004 meeting, the revised plans called for an enlargement of the stormwater management area at Test Area 13. The new, expanded area to the west of the previously examined Test Area 13 was examined through walkover (Figure 3). The area has been extensively disturbed by the construction of a large earth berm, removal of topsoil, and excavation of a small pond. It appears that a residential development was planned for this area in the past, but was never completed. There is no potential for intact archaeological deposits in the expanded Test Area 13, and no further work is recommended.

### **Examination of Expanded Test Area 5**

At the March 15, 2004 meeting, the revised plans called for an enlargement of the stormwater management area at Test Area 5. The expansion northwest of the previously examined Test Area 5 has been significantly impacted by the recent construction of the Glasgow Regional Park (Figure 4). Extensive earth-moving activities have occurred in the expansion area and there is no potential for intact archaeological deposits. No further work is recommended for this test area.

### **Landowner Refusal at Walther Road Intersection**

The APE at the northeastern quadrant of the Walther Road intersection was miscoded as disturbed in the draft Phase I report; it should have been coded as access denied. This mistake was recognized at the March 15, 2004 meeting, and efforts were made in July 2004 to gain access to this property. The landowners would not allow the excavation of STPs or the plowing/discing/surface collecting of the tract.

During the December 2, 2004 field view, DelDOT communicated their decision to delay all work on this tract until after the property had been purchased by the state. There are no immediate plans to construct in this area, and there will be sufficient time to complete the necessary Phase I survey once the state takes ownership.

## **Other Changes**

Subsequent to the submittal of the draft Phase I reports, several changes have occurred in the APE. Test Area 1, the related barn and silo (N-14100, Bush Hill Barn and Silo), Test Area 2, and the Pyle Tenant site have been destroyed by private retail development. Test Areas 5, 6, 8, and 20, and the location of Isolated Find #1 have been impacted by earth-moving activity related to the Glasgow Regional Park. Vegetation has been removed and a chain link fence has been added at the Hermitage. The nineteenth century house and barns at Location 18 (N-5083, mistakenly identified in the Phase I report as the G.B. Rodney house) have been lost to residential development; only two silos remain. Two other historic resources that have been destroyed by private development since the Phase I survey include the Carney House, a mid-twentieth century vernacular style house; and 1750 Pulaski Highway (N-14112), a post-World War II Cape Cod style house. The changes will be noted in the revised Phase I reports.

## **Areas of Continuing Historic Resource Concern**

It is anticipated that the following areas of continuing historic resource concern will be addressed at the January 2005 field view.

*National Register Eligibility of the Fox House.* This resource was originally recommended not eligible. Comments from the SHPO suggest that they may wish to revisit the eligibility issue.

*National Register Eligibility/Treatment of the Frech Sclavos Farmstead.* This resource has been recommended eligible, and SHPO comments suggest that they concur. The ongoing issues will be determination of effects, impact of DelDOT purchase on Section 106, and time-sensitivity of mitigation planning and implementation.

*Nature of Effects to the Glasgow Historic District.* This National Register-listed district will likely face visual impacts from the proposed undertaking. It will be appropriate to address possible design changes to limit effects to the district.

*Nature of Effects and Boundary of the Hermitage.* There has been much recent, non-DelDOT impact to this resource. These changes should be considered in assessing effects of the Route 40 project on the property. In addition, redesign possibilities should be considered.

*SHPO Concurrence on Proposed Bear Historic District.* A Bear Historic District was proposed by MAAR Associates in 2002. The formal status of this district is unknown. It will be important to determine if the SHPO has concurred with the eligibility

Mr. Kevin Cunningham  
December 17, 2004  
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recommendations, and to determine the final boundaries of the district. If eligible, it will be appropriate to address possible redesign to limit or eliminate effects.

*National Register Eligibility of N-3978, the McKenna House, on S.R. 72.* This property was recommended not eligible in the draft Phase I report. Initial comments from Patrick Carpenter (DelDOT) suggest that it will be appropriate to get SHPO input during the January 2005 field view.

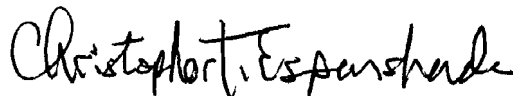
*Archaeological Potential of N-5083, the Cumberland Farm/Corrie House.* As addressed above, Phase II testing will be undertaken at this site. Upon completion of the Phase II testing and reporting, if the site is recommended National Register-eligible, plans in this area of the project will be revisited.

*Archaeological Survey at the Walther Road Intersection.* As addressed above, the Phase I archaeological survey will be delayed until DelDOT purchases the test area. This will likely be several years in the future.

We look forward to moving the Route 40 Improvements Project cultural resource work closer to completion. Please call Gerry Kuncio or me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

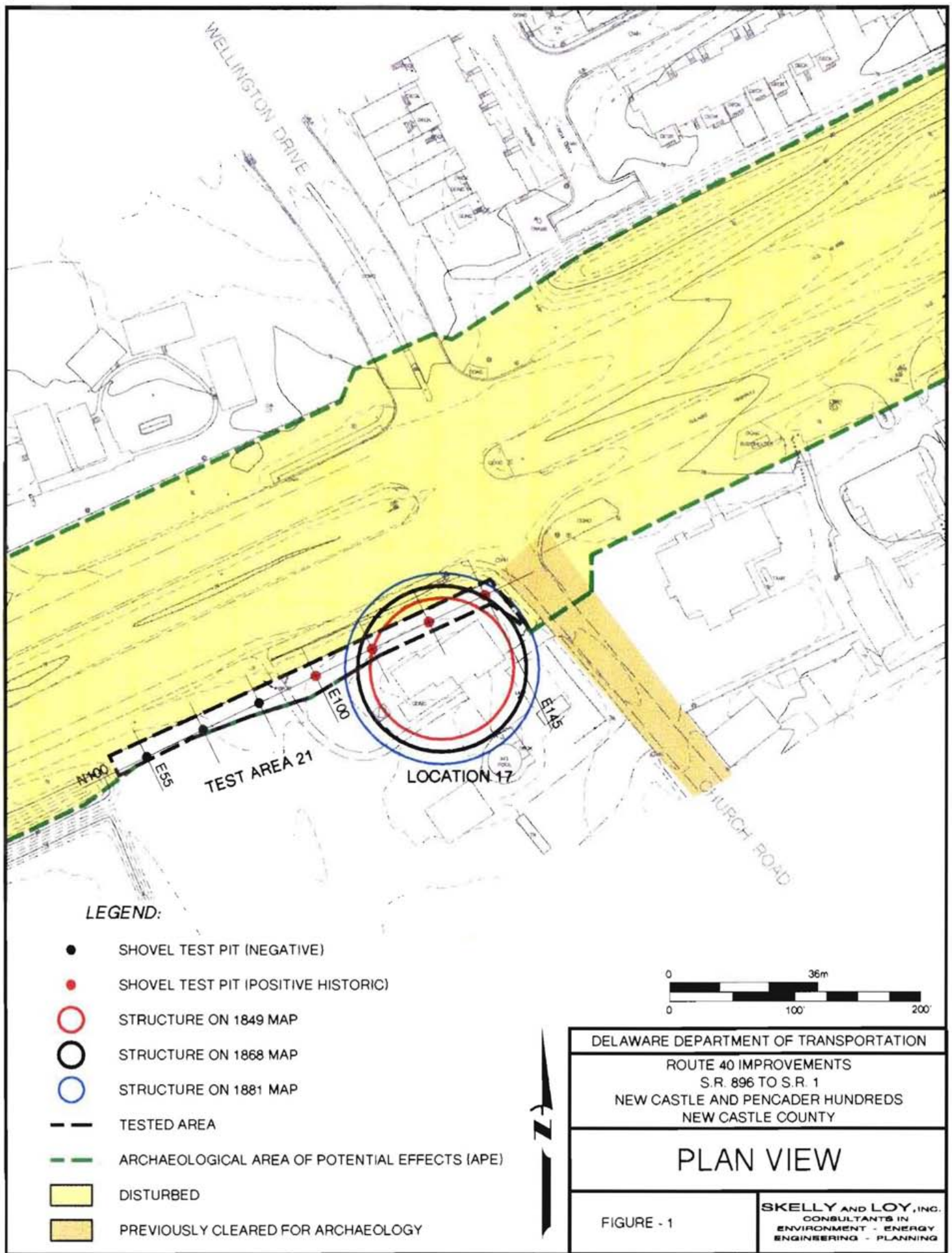
SKELLY and LOY, Inc.

  
Christopher T. Espenshade  
Cultural Resource Specialist

CTE/tab  
enclosures

References Cited:

Hoffman, R.F., J.D. Traver, and R.A. Thomas  
2002 *Phase I & II Cultural Resource Surveys of the Church Road Highway Improvement Project Area, New Castle Hundred, Delaware.* MAAR Associates, Inc., Newark, Delaware.  
Submitted to Whitman, Requardt and Associates, L.L.P., Wilmington, Delaware.





LOCATION 12



SITE 1

TEST AREA 15

**LEGEND:**

- SHOVEL TEST PIT (NEGATIVE)
- STRUCTURE ON 1849 MAP
- STRUCTURE ON 1868 MAP
- STRUCTURE ON 1881 MAP
- TESTED AREA
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS (APE)
- DISTURBED
- SURFACE SURVEYED
- SITE BOUNDARY

N100

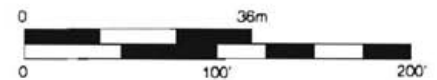
N85

N70

E100

E145

TEST AREA 16



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROUTE 40 IMPROVEMENTS

S.R. 896 TO S.R. 1

NEW CASTLE AND PENCADER HUNDREDS

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

PLAN VIEW

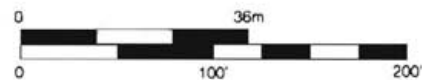
FIGURE - 2

SKELLY AND LOY, INC.  
CONSULTANTS IN  
ENVIRONMENT - ENERGY  
ENGINEERING - PLANNING



**LEGEND:**

- SHOVEL TEST PIT (NEGATIVE)
- STRUCTURE ON 1868 MAP
- STRUCTURE ON 1881 MAP
- - - TESTED AREA
- - - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS (APE)
- DISTURBED
- WET AREA



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROUTE 40 IMPROVEMENTS  
S.R. 896 TO S.R. 1  
NEW CASTLE AND PENCADER HUNDREDS  
NEW CASTLE COUNTY

**PLAN VIEW**

FIGURE - 3

**SKELLY AND LOY, INC.**  
CONSULTANTS IN  
ENVIRONMENT - ENERGY  
ENGINEERING - PLANNING

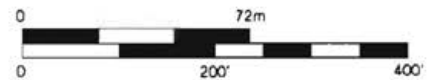


**LEGEND:**

- SHOVEL TEST PIT (NEGATIVE)
- TESTED AREA
- - - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS (APE)
- DISTURBED

TEST AREA 5

TEST AREA 12



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROUTE 40 IMPROVEMENTS

S.R. 896 TO S.R. 1

NEW CASTLE AND PENCADER HUNDREDS

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

PLAN VIEW

FIGURE - 4

SKELLY AND LOY, INC.  
CONSULTANTS IN  
ENVIRONMENT - ENERGY  
ENGINEERING - PLANNING